

DURATION OF PARLIAMENT.

PROBLEM.

in the House of Lords yesterday, said it was the intention of the Government to ask Parliament to pass a Bill to amend the House of Lords Bill, and before doing so they would make a statement in regard to registration. They realised, however, that owing to unforeseen circumstances, the Bill might be rendered necessary sooner than expected. Mr. de Crevé announced that the Government would place their proposals in the matter before Parliament.

In the House of Lords yesterday, Lord STRATHCRAIG asked when and how they intended to carry out their pledge to prepare a Parliamentary Register, so that if one occasion was a general election could take place upon the basis of a Parliamentary Register, and the present register was obsolete and derelict. The Lord Secretary, questioned in the House of Lords, replied that the Government were considering the matter. Mr. Samuel was really fooling and playing with the most serious subject. The present House of Commons no longer had a Parliamentary Register, and it was perfectly obvious that the death of the present House of Commons would mean the death of the present House of Commons, and that the Government were not to help thinking that the Government were endeavouring to prolong the life of the present House of Commons in order to prolong the life of the Marquis of LANSDOWNE regarding that speech of the noble lord, which began that

the conduct of the Government
is actuated solely by a desire to

ious one on office. The situation was a fairly typical one. The life of the present Parliament expired at the end of the next month, and, therefore, unless legislation was resorted to, a General Election would have to be held in the next few weeks. It was quite apart from any desire to prolong the life of the present Government, there were a number of reasons which led the Government of the country away from the idea of resorting to a General Election whilst the war was still in progress. They none of them desired to re-open the old political issues which had caused so many political animosities, at such a time as some of them desired to prevent the waste of energy and the waste of money which would have been inevitable. They did not desire, further, an election now could not fail to present to the country confused issues upon which it would not be easy to form definite opinions. The Government of the country, in fact, were in a position to

existence of the present House, they fully recognised that a General Election might, owing to unforeseen circumstances, become inevitable.

They realised fully that an election taken on the moment, upon the day of the meeting, would be a disaster. The present register was more than three years old, and entirely obsolete. It was necessary to have a new register, and had to be placed upon that register, and to prolong the life of Parliament must be secured. It was not possible to do this, because, otherwise it would be too late to serve its purpose. But they realised that before the bill was introduced, it was necessary to have a bill they were under the obligation to introduce, at the same time, at any rate, the introduction of a new register. They could not, of course, hope to pass a registration bill before the meeting, and they were under the obligation in this matter was due to the extreme urgency of the subject and the immense weight of opinion which obtained with regard to it.

The Earl of PORTSMOUTH remarked that the bill had a certain outline, but that it was somewhat nebulous character, and he thought

The Marquis of SALISBURY was surprised at the Government had delayed so long before making proposals for a new register. It

the Marquis of CREWE stated that from the Prime Minister in the House of Commons, it was clear that there was no intention of putting forward any proposals of the kind that those proposals could either take the form of a bill, or some

ted, many difficulties had to be solved. An enormous proportion of those who were entitled to vote, and who clearly ought to vote, were out

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which would give the real security, and that
 would take a considerable time, and the employ-
 ment of a great deal of labour. They

ht passed that when the bill was pre-
pared for a short prolongation of the life of
the present Parliament there would be fully
considered of the proposals, by then he hoped
secured, by the Government in regard to regu-
lation.

BILLS ADVANCED.

The Consolidated Fund (No. 4) Bill, the
Mandates and Mesopotamia Commission Bill,
the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill were
brought from the Commons and read a first
time.

The House adjourned at 6.25.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY.

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The National Gallery

Hugh Lane, after a tenure of the office of vector of little more than a year, met his death in the sinking of the Lusitania on May

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